



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### 1960 COMMERCIAL FISH CATCH EXPECTED TO EQUAL FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

The 1960 commercial fish catch for the United States will equal the five-year average but will be about 200 million pounds below the 1959 mark of 5.1 billion pounds, information available at the Department of the Interior indicates. The peak year was 1956 with 5.2 billion pounds.

The estimate of the 1960 catch is based upon data available for the first nine months of the year and an estimate of the fishing pattern and results for the remaining three months. These data are released by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service.

For the second consecutive year, according to present indications, the catch of fish used for industrial purposes--fish oil, meal and animal feed--will exceed that taken for human food. This condition will probably prevail despite the fact that the industrial catch is expected to be 200 to 250 million pounds below that of 1959 and the catch for human consumption up 30 to 50 million pounds.

The total catch of fish for the first nine months was 3,594,000,000 pounds compared with 3,738,000,000 for the same period in 1959. This year's decline in the industrial catch is reflected in the catches of menhaden, herring in Alaska, and in miscellaneous industrial fish in New England. Increases in the harvest of food fish species are noted in Alaska salmon (203 million pounds compared with 147 million pounds), Maine sardines (131 million compared to 102 million), jack mackerel in California (50 million compared to 18 million), shrimp in the South Atlantic States and Gulf of Mexico (162 million compared to 151 million), and ocean perch (117 million compared to 110 million). Slight decreases are noted during the first nine months of 1960 in the catch of cod, halibut, tuna, whiting and Washington salmon.

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